

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02  
CIAE-00 EB-08 ICA-20 DODE-00 IO-14 NSC-05 NSF-02  
ARA-14 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 DLOS-09 SOE-02 DOE-15  
TRSE-00 PM-05 EPA-04 INT-05 PA-02 CEQ-01 DOTE-00  
OMB-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 /185 R

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APPROVED BY OES/OFA/OCA:MDBUSBY  
OES/OFA/OCA:RTSCULLY  
NSF/J:BENNET  
EA/K:BLAKEMORE

-----057351 200513Z /23

R 182053Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 210665

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS, XV, TGEN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED KOREAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, AND 4 BELOW  
RELATING TO ANTARCTIC TREATY, AND U.S. ACTIVITIES UNDER  
TREATY, MAY BE DRAWN UPON IN REPLYING TO POSSIBLE APPROACH  
FROM KIM YONG-DO REGARDING PLANNED TREK TO SOUTH POLE.

2. THE U.S. IS ONE OF THE TWELVE ORIGINAL SIGNATORIES  
OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN WASHINGTON  
IN 1959. OF THE TWELVE ORIGINAL SIGNATORIES, SEVEN  
(ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CHILE, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY,  
AND THE U.K.) CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER PARTS OF THE ANTARCTIC  
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CONTINENT, AND FIVE (THE U.S., BELGIUM, JAPAN, SOUTH  
AFRICA AND THE USSR) NEITHER ASSERT NOR RECOGNIZE CLAIMS  
TO TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY IN ANTARCTICA. LARGELY THROUGH  
A FORMULATION UNDER WHICH ITS PARTIES AGREE TO DISAGREE  
OVER TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY, THE ANTARCTIC TREATY ESTAB-  
LISHES A BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ANTARCTICA.  
THE TREATY, INTER ALIA, SETS ASIDE ANTARCTICA AND THE

WATERS SOUTH OF 60 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY AND PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION THROUGHOUT THE ANTARCTIC.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE, TO PARAGRAPHS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) OF REFTTEL, SINCE U.S. NEITHER CLAIMS TERRITORY IN ANTARCTICA NOR RECOGNIZES CLAIMS OF OTHERS, QUESTION OF U.S. PERMISSION TO ENTER ANTARCTICA DOES NOT ARISE. LIKEWISE, IT IS OUR LEGAL POSITION THAT AN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA WHICH MEETS "PEACEFUL PURPOSES" CRITERION OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY DOES NOT REQUIRE PERMISSION OF ANY COUNTRY ACTIVE IN ANTARCTICA, CLAIMANT OR NON-CLAIMANT. FURTHER, IF AN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA HAS AS AN OBJECTIVE LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, IT WOULD FALL WITHIN ARTICLE II OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WHICH PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION IN ANTARCTICA.

4. QUESTION OF U.S. LOGISTIC ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE KOREAN EXPEDITION, HOWEVER, WOULD RAISE A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES. U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM, MANAGED BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, OPERATES UNDER TIGHT BUDGET AND LOGISTIC CONSTRAINTS. NSF INDICATES THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO EXISTING SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS AND DIFFICULTIES OF WORKING AND TRAVELLING IN ANTARCTICA, WOULD RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR EXPEDITIONS SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY KIM, INCLUDING SHELTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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FOOD, OR FUEL AT EITHER MCMURDO OR SOUTH POLE STATIONS. ADDITIONAL CONCERN WOULD BE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO MOUNT SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS SHOULD PROJECTED KOREAN EXPEDITION ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES ON POLAR TREK.

5. IN RESPONDING TO ANY APPROACH FROM KIM, EMBASSY SHOULD NEITHER ENCOURAGE NOR DISCOURAGE IDEA OF POSSIBLE EXPEDITION. AS NOTED ABOVE, SUCH AN EXPEDITION COULD ENCOUNTER VARIETY OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT THOSE ARE NOT NECESSARILY INSUPERABLE FOR A WELL PLANNED OPERATION. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED ON MATTER. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTARCTIC TREATY, SCIENTIFIC VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 7c4fe360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED KOREAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION  
**TAGS:** TGEN, KS, XV  
**To:** SEOUL  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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